

Wakes Colne Parish Council

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YOUR PARISH COUNCIL WORKING FOR YOUR PARISH

Business Plan 2019– 2023

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Mission Statement

To promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the Parish.

To protect and improve open spaces, conserving and enhancing the natural environment within the Parish.

To promote sustainable development within the Parish, protecting the rural aspect of the Parish.

To ensure that the Parish is a welcoming place for all residents and visitors.

2. Strategic Objectives

To assist in the creation of a socially inclusive and economically viable community, embracing all residents irrespective of age, culture, income, race or religion, and which seeks to develop their wellbeing, knowledge, understanding and mutual co-operation.

To provide a channel for the views and expressions of the local community and to be responsive to its needs and aspirations.

To develop partnerships and agency working with the public and private sectors in terms of resources and finance for the benefit of the community.

To continue the development of the role of the Parish Council under the concept of the Local Council Awards scheme and to maintain awards the Council have achieved.

To liaise with and support local community associations.

3. Principles

In all its actions, the Parish Council will take into account, and where appropriate act in accordance with, the principles enshrined in the relevant legislation and best practice for:

Equal Opportunities

Best Value

Disability Discrimination Act

Age Discrimination Act

Equalities Act

Data Protection Act

Local Council Award Scheme

4. Achievements from the 2018-19 Action Plan

Maintain a working relationship with Nicholas Percival regarding the development of a footway along Tyburn Hill from Wakes Hall to extend footpath 25 to link into the footpath network. Nicholas Percival is developing Wakes Colne Hall and has included within the planning application a footpath on Wakes Colne Hall land to link Tyburn Hill into the footpath network. Planning Permission has been approved for the footway.

Cost – to be included with the re-development of the area by the developer.

Undertake two litter picking events within the parish linking into the National litter picking weeks. Purchase of a selection of litter pickers, gloves and high visibility jackets for use by the Litter Picking Volunteers.

Cost – to the Parish Council was £150.00.

Partnership working with Essex County Council and Colchester Borough Council, the local Highways Panel and Parishioners to improve and enhance the safety of pedestrians and drive on the road network through Wakes Colne Parish.

The Parish Council continues to pursue the option for traffic calming installations in Station Road and lower speed limits throughout the village.

Cost – Funded by the ECC Highways.

BT indicated that during 2016 Superfast Broadband was installed in part of the village. Several areas of the village are not achieving superfast speeds and are under review by BT and ECC Superfast Broadband team. Due to the lack of progress a parishioner has taken the lead on this issue and the Parish Council are supporting their investigations and their liaison with County Broadband for the installation of fibre optic throughout the village.

Cost – via County Broadband and individual parishioners who purchase the service.

Wakes Colne Parish Council Award.

Introduced a Council award scheme which acknowledges the important role of local parishioners who have acted in the best interests of the village. Parishioner's nominate local residents of Wakes Colne and award is presented at the Annual Parish Assembly.

First recipient for 2017 was Trudi Cresswell

Second recipient for 2018 was Chris Eaton

Third recipients for 2019 joint winners were Marion Cordingley and Jim Taylor

Fourth recipients for 2020 were Christine Maskell and Rev John Richardson

Fifth recipient 2021 was Mandy Sexton

The scheme is implemented by Wakes Colne Parish Council to award local people for the work or service they undertake for the Parish.

Cost – Certificate – Photo frame (£25.00)

Re-siting of the 'Welcome to Wakes Colne' from Station Road to the boundary, opposite the Water Tower, with Mount Bures on Bures Road.

Cost – ECC Highways

Planted a tree in Millennium Green to mark 100 years of the end WW1.

Cost – (tree and plaque total £164.65)

4.1 Achievements from the 2019-20 Action Plan

Installation of a Solar light at the Bus Shelter, Colchester Road.

Cost – ECC installed and will maintain.

Undertake two litter picking events within the parish linking into the National litter picking weeks. Purchase of a selection of litter pickers, gloves and high visibility jackets for use by the Litter Picking Volunteers.

Cost – No cost as equipment purchased in 2018/19 budget.

Partnership working with Essex County Council and Colchester Borough Council, the local Highways Panel and Parishioners to improve and enhance the safety of pedestrians and drive on the road network through Wakes Colne Parish.

The Parish Council continues to pursue the option for traffic calming installations in Station Road and lower speed limits throughout the village.

Cost – Funded by the ECC Highways.

County Broadband began the installation of the infra structure for Superfast Broadband (additional telegraph poles and fibre optic cables, at the beginning of 2020. Target date for connection December 2020.

Cost – via County Broadband and individual parishioners who purchase the service.

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Four-Year Plan 2019-2023

In 2018 Wakes Colne Parish Council obtained the Quality Gold award. The Quality Gold Award demonstrates that a Council is at the forefront of best practice and achieves excellence in governance, community leadership and council development.

Quality Gold Councils provide leadership for their communities, bring people together, have excellent business planning processes, ensuring value for money as well as constantly seeking new innovations and opportunities to improve.

The Parish Council highlight the very best we, as a sector, can achieve for our communities.

Valid for 4 years – until 09/2022

5.1 Key Council Objectives

Continue to build on the Quality Status to improve partnership working with Colchester Borough Council and Essex County Council.

Where appropriate, seek the development of services from Colchester Borough Council and County Council which would lead to an improvement in services and amenities for the community.

Pursue the implementation of traffic calming measures and speed restrictions on Station Road and Bures Road.

Support Chappel Parish Council with their Community Speed Watch programme and improvements to the A1124.

Monitor the development and installation of a footway at Tyburn Hill.

Seek to protect inappropriate development within the Parish. Provide comment and constructive criticism on planning issues affecting the local community.

Continue to support the Telephone Box Exchanges located on Colchester Road and Middle Green for the enjoyment of residents and visitors to the Parish.

The Footpath Working Group will continue to work with Essex County Council Public Right of Way Officers to improve and maintain the footpaths within the Parish.

To undertake two litter picking events within the Parish (spring and autumn).

To continue to work with County Broadband on the provision of Superfast Broadband to all residents of the Parish. Provide support to the Broadband Champion.

To encourage Councillors to attend relevant training courses/events where possible.

To continue to support the Essex County Council Salt Bag Partnership Scheme. The scheme has been designed by Essex County Council to help local communities support themselves during periods of heavy snow.

The Chair of the Parish Council to contribute a regular article to the Village Reporter magazine highlighting the work of the Parish Council.

Continue to attend and respond to consultations with Network Rail regarding the proposed closure of the railway crossing at Thornfield Wood. Oppose the closure which impacts on the footpath network within the Parish. Support neighbouring Parishes that are also impacted by proposed closure of railway crossings in their Parishes.

Attend and respond to consultations as appropriate with the Highway Authorities regarding improvements to the A12 and A120.

Continue to update and develop the Parish Website.

Cost - (Free the Clerk regularly maintains it)

To investigate the installation of suitable solar power lighting outside the bus shelter on the A1124 (Halstead side). The project has been placed on ECC Highways approved list and has a cost coding attached. ECC Highways are awaiting quotes and an insulation date to be approved.

The Parish Council are working with the Infrastructure Development Manager Essex County Council Highways.

Cost – (Free funding by LHP)

Investigate the feasibility of developing a Parish Neighbourhood Plan Village Design Statement. An initial working group to be set up by the end of 2019 to collate information on a Village Design Statement and develop and action plan. Seek advice from Colchester Borough Council, adjoining Parish Councils who have developed Village Design Statements or Neighbourhood Plan.

Cost – Approximately £2,000.00 can be taken from reserves and investigate available funding from outside organisations.

Investigate updating the Wakes Colne Millennium Walks pamphlets, including Nature notes, Historical notes and Agricultural notes. Work with the Riverside Colne Country Side Project, Wakes Colne Parish Council Footpath working Group and Essex County Council Public Rights of Way Officers.

Cost - £1,000 to revise and reprint pamphlets.

5.2 Achievements from 2020-21

Virtual Meetings held via Zoom due to Covid restrictions.

Spring Bulb Planting.

Item 1. Lane Road – Daffodils planted around and near the Telephone Book Exchange.

Item 2. A1124 The Street – Daffodil bulbs planted in 3 circles on the corner of The Street.

Seasonal Lights.

Sola lights purchased and placed in the lower branches of the existing oak tree, and a banner wishing everyone a Merry Christmas

5.3 Achievements from 2021-2022

Installation of Fibre Optic Broadband in Station Rd (March 2022).

Footpath clearance on three occasions in autumn 2021.

Footpath reviews undertaken in conjunction with aiming to produce a revised walks booklet.

Public meeting in March 2022 on road safety, traffic calming in Station Rd, zebra crossing on A1124 and related matters. Ongoing requests to ECC Highways.

Telephone book exchanges monitored and maintained.

Initiated and maintained a Plant and Seed Swap in the bus shelter near the Post Office.

Acquired two large salt bins for permanent location in Station Approach, for ease of collection of salt by residents.

Acquired a flood barrier defence system for use when needed at the Post office for as long as it remains a community asset. Set up a list of volunteers and training given.

Installed extended paving at junction of Station Road and Station Approach thereby increasing public safety.

Held a joint public meeting with Chappel Parish Council in October 2021 to ascertain procedures and practices required, with input from CBC and Eight Ash Green Parish. Lack of local interest and community volunteers in taking this forward.

Initiated and maintained a dedicated Facebook page for the Parish Council and residents.

Objectives for 2022- 2023

In honour of her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, install four large planters near the bus shelters and maintain planting and watering.

Install a water butt at the 'Delfan' bus shelter to facilitate and make safe watering of planters.

Progress road safety by installing a VAS outside the Village Hall on the A1124.

When the Wakes Hall development is complete open a new dedicated footpath at Tyburn Hill, thereby greatly increasing public safety. A new walk to be added to the revised local walks booklet.

5.2 Planning Issues

General Objectives-

To seek to ensure that:

The environment of the Parish is maintained and enhanced.

Environmental protection is balanced with economic and community prosperity. Open spaces are maintained in a way that will support bio-diversity policies.

Specific Actions

To consider planning applications in the Parish and to comment accordingly.

To report planning or environmental infringements to Colchester Borough Council

5.3 Emergency Planning

To compile and maintain a Parish Emergency Plan, including an Emergency Flood Plan, which is sent to Colchester Borough Council's Emergency Planning Officer.

WAKE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL
FORWARD FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	Budget 2019- 2020	Forecast for 2020-2021	Forecast for 2021-2022	Forecast for 2022-2023
Clerk's Employment Costs	£7,500.94	£7,900.00	£8,300.00	£8,700.00
Insurance	£350.00	£400.00	£410.00	£450.00
Audit	£100.00	£200.00	£250.00	£260.00
Office Expenses/Office Rent	£910.00	£950.00	£960.00	£970.00
Room Hire	£350.00	£400.00	£420.00	£450.00
Subscriptions Paid	£375.00	£380.00	£380.00	£400.00
Training	£400.00	£420.00	£440.00	£450.00
Defibrillator	£165.00	£170.00	£180.00	£190.00
Election	£1,000.00	£1,020.00	£1,030.00	£1,070.00
Parish Open Spaces & verges	£500.00	£600.00	£630.00	£640.00
Footpaths	£100.00	£250.00	£260.00	£270.00
Street Lighting	£500.00	£650.00	£670.00	£690.00
Projects	£2,000.00	£2,100.00	£2,200.00	£2,300.00
Grants paid	£775.00	£1,000.00	£1,200.00	£1,300.00
Contingences	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£2,060.00	£2,100.00
Chairman's Allowance	£50.00	£60.00	£70.00	£80.00
Village Design Statement	£1,000.00	One off cost	One off cost	One off cost
Millennium Walk Pamphlets updates	£500.00	One off cost	One off cost	One off cost
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£18,217.94	£18,000.00	£18,660.00	£19,220.00
VAT paid pending recovery	£229.08	unknown	unknown	unknown
Less Grant	£805.00	unknown	unknown	unknown
Total Budget (less VAT & Grant)	£17,183.86			
Precept	£12,740.00	unknown	unknown	unknown
To be taken from Reserves.	£4,443.86	unknown	unknown	unknown

Re-Adopted

Date 8th June 2022

Minute reference 22/121 Item B

SignedChairwoman

Review date May 2023